

Indians visited abroad as tourists

† 3234. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian citizens have visited abroad as tourists during the past years;

(b) if so, what was the number of such citizens in the year 1997, 1998 and 1999, respectively; and

(c) what was the amount of foreign exchange spent by each of those tourists on foreign tour during the said years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Total number of Indian Nationals departed from India for visiting other countries during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 is as follows:

Year	Number of Indian Nationals going abroad (In Million)
2	3.73
3	3.81
1999	3.88

(c) Information regarding amount of foreign exchange spent by such tourists on foreign tour is not maintained.

Pending projects for Kanyakumari

3235. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects sanctioned by Government for Kanyakumari during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects completed and the number of projects uncompleted in Kanyakumari; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether there is any proposal sent by the State Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the last three years five projects for development of Kanyakumari have been sanctioned. No utilisation certificate has been received from the State Government for the amount released so far. Implementation of the project is the responsibility of the State Government.

(c) A project for improvement of infrastructure at Kanyakumari has been prioritised for central financial assistance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs for the current financial year.

Pilgrim Centres in Himachal Pradesh

3236. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(b) the number of Pilgrim Centres which have been identified for promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh with details of their names and funds allocated for development of each Pilgrim Centre;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the State Government to include Durga Hatkoti temple in Shimla Distt. of Himachal Pradesh for developing it as a tourist centre; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development of places of tourist importance including pilgrim centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in May 1992 a Committee on Development of Pilgrim Tourism identified two pilgrim centres in the State of Himachal Pradesh namely Ponta Sahib and Jwalamukhi for tourism infrastructure development. Based on the Project Proposals submitted by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, the Central Department of Tourism extended financial assistance to three tourism